

Amy Hopkins

To whom it may concern:

Regarding House Bill 6645, AN ACT CONCERNING COMPASSIONATE AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS, I want to express my support for this bill. As a physician in CT for the last 24 years, I have seen many patients who suffered miserably near the ends of their lives. I strongly believe in self-determination and that individuals should be allowed the choice to end their lives on their own terms, if that is their desire. A dying person should not have to resort to painful and possibly illegal ways to end their life. This bill would allow people to end their lives safely and with dignity without worrying about the legal consequences to them and their families. A physician can help them with this process by providing medications which will terminate their lives in the most comfortable manner possible rather than forcing them to resort to more difficult means to accomplish the same end. Part of a physician's duty is to ease suffering, including at the end of life, and if physicians will be legally able to do this in the State of CT, I will be further honored to call this my home. Other states and countries have passed similar legislation without evidence of abuse, and I hope that CT will join the ever growing numbers of localities supporting the right to self-determination. Physicians should be able to perform the ultimate service to their patients who are at the ends of their lives without fear of legal prosecution and censure.

Sincerely,

Amy Hopkins, MD, MPH, PhD

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